

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 1999-225-C - ORDER NO. 1999-558
AUGUST 9, 1999

IN RE: Petition of Hargray Telephone Company, Inc.) ORDER DISMISSING
and Bluffton Telephone Company, Inc. to) PROCEEDING AND
Preserve Their Rural Exemptions as Permitted) CLOSING DOCKET
Under 47 U.S.C. Section 251(f)(1).)

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This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the request of Bluffton Telephone Company, Inc. (Bluffton) and Hargray Telephone Company, Inc. (Hargray) that this action be dismissed and the docket closed.

On May 17, 1999 Bluffton and Hargray each received a bona fide request for interconnection from State Communications, Inc. (State). On June 11, 1999, both Bluffton and Hargray filed letters informing the Commission of Bluffton's and Hargray's intent to assert their continuing right as rural telephone companies to be exempted from certain obligations imposed on incumbent local exchange carriers by Section 251(c) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (the Act), 47 U.S.C. Section 251 (c).


In response to Bluffton's and Hargray's letters, the Commission initiated the above-referenced docket to conduct an inquiry pursuant to Section 251(f)(1)(B) of the Act for the purpose of determining whether to terminate Bluffton's and Hargray's automatic rural telephone company exemptions.

By letter dated July 16, 1999, State withdrew its bona fide request for interconnection with Bluffton and Hargray. Thus, according to Bluffton and Hargray, the issues in this docket have become moot and this proceeding should be dismissed.

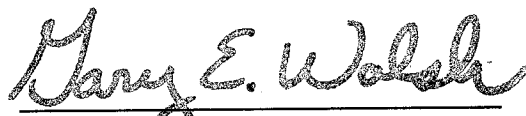
We agree with Bluffton and Hargray. State's withdrawal of the bona fide request makes the issues in this docket moot. Accordingly, this proceeding is hereby dismissed, and the docket is closed.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:


Chairman

ATTEST:


Executive Director

(SEAL)